

the war effort, which the Six Triple Eight recognized with the motto: "No mail, low morale."

In 1946, Mrs. Hunt-Martin returned to the United States and received an honorable discharge. She then worked at the United States Department of Labor for 41 years. During this service, she met her husband and had a daughter, Janice Martin.

After her service to the Nation, Mrs. Hunt-Martin became an active member of several veterans organizations and mentored young Black women who served in the military.

Sadly, on September 21, 2020, Indiana Hunt-Martin passed away.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill to honor Indiana Hunt-Martin's exemplary life of service.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS), the author of this important bill.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2142, legislation designating the Central Park Post Office in Buffalo, New York, as the Indiana Hunt-Martin Post Office Building.

It is fitting that consideration of this bill celebrating the life and service of an American trailblazer take place today during Black History month and upon Women's History Month.

Born in 1922, Indiana Hunt-Martin moved to Niagara Falls as a child and graduated from Niagara Falls High School before joining the Women's Army Corps in 1944.

Following enlistment, she traveled by railroad to Fort Oglethorpe in Georgia, where she underwent training.

She recalled encounters with segregation as she traveled south: a train stop in Washington, D.C., where passengers were separated into railcars based on race; separate restrooms and drinking fountains; and fellow military members getting in trouble for refusing to sit in the back of the bus.

Indiana Hunt-Martin was a member of the Six Triple Eight Central Postal Directory Battalion within the Women's Army Corps, the first Black female battalion and the only all-women battalion to be deployed overseas.

The unit sorted and redirected millions of backlogged letters and packages sent to soldiers, working around the clock to deliver approximately 65,000 pieces of mail each shift.

Indiana Hunt-Martin served this Nation selflessly and was honorably discharged from the United States Army on November 10, 1945.

After the war, she worked for the New York State Department of Labor for 41 years, retiring in 1987.

In addition to serving her country, she served her community through numerous veterans, church, and neighborhood organizations.

In 2014, we had the distinct privilege of presenting her with the medals she earned while serving in the United

States Army, including the Women's Army Corps Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Honorable Service Lapel award for her service during World War II.

The idea for this legislation was brought to us by Korean war veteran Sandi Williams, who serves as president and founder of the United Veterans of Buffalo.

The bill has the bipartisan support of the entire New York congressional delegation, the Bennett-Wells American Legion Auxiliary Post, the Johnetta R. Cole AMVETS Post, the Jesse Clipper American Legion Post, and many others.

From 1978 until her passing, Indiana Hunt-Martin frequented the post office on Manhattan Avenue in Buffalo weekly to purchase stamps, pick up mail, and send letters.

There are post offices named for Presidents and famous celebrities, but I might argue that there would be none more fitting than the one paying tribute to the legacy of Indiana Hunt-Martin and her service to our country.

I am proud to lead this effort, and I urge my colleagues to join me in approving this legislation.

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, with no further speakers, I urge passage of H.R. 2142, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2142, to honor Ms. Indiana Hunt-Martin, a member of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) groundbreaking 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion (Six Triple Eight), the only all-black WAC battalion deployed overseas during WWII.

As a cosponsor of this bill and the author of the House measure to award a Congressional Gold Medal to all the women of the Six Triple Eight that the Congress will soon enact, Ms. Hunt-Martin's story is the story of most of the women who served in the 6888.

According to her daughter, "she was born in a time and place where share cropping, lynching, and hatred of people, especially males of color were everyday occurrences."

Yet, she was not deterred from serving her country. Born in Georgia, she moved to New York in the 1920's when she was still a young child. After graduating high school, she read about an effort by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, the founding president of the National Council of Negro Women, to ensure that women of color could join the war effort as part of the WAC. So she applied. And waited. And after, her application was apparently "lost", she did not give up. She applied again, was accepted, and enlisted.

She was subsequently chosen to serve in the Six Triple Eight. And served honorably with that groundbreaking unit.

After her military service, she worked for the New York State Department of Labor, retiring after some 40 years of service. In 2014, in a story that is very familiar to me, she reached out to her local congressman, Mr. HIGGINS, for help getting the medals she had earned

through her service so many decades earlier. This story is familiar to me because my own constituent, Ms. Anna Mae Robertson, who also served with the Six Triple Eight, similarly reached out to my office around the same time to help her get the service medals she had earned.

This evening, I will have the honor of hosting Ms. Hunt-Martin's daughter in my office as we celebrate the passage of this bill and my Six Triple Eight Gold Medal bill (H.R. 1012/S. 321). While Ms. Hunt-Martin and the vast majority of the women who served with the 6888 may no longer be with us, today we make sure that their service and sacrifice is not forgotten.

As noted by Debbera Ranson, the commander and founder of the Johnetta R. Coles AmVets post in Buffalo, NY, "There are so many times when African American soldiers have done wonderful things but it takes forever for them to get recognized. Many times, the honors that they eventually received—if they even do—is way after they have passed. And so, as we do these different honors, at least family members will be able to enjoy knowing that their loved ones have been honored."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2142.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TITUS) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

"SIX TRIPLE EIGHT" CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 321) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr.